EXPEDITIONARY FIGHTING VEHICLE (ADVANCED AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT VEHICLE PROGRAM)

DESCRIPTION

The Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle (EFV) – formerly called the Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAAV) – will be the primary means of tactical mobility for the Marine rifle squad during the conduct of amphibious operations and sustained ground combat operations ashore. The EFV is a self-deploying, high-water-speed, armored amphibious vehicle capable of transporting Marines from ships located beyond the horizon to inland objectives. The EFV will have the speed and maneuvering capabilities to operate with main battle tanks on land. In addition, the vehicle can use bodies of water such as oceans, lakes, and rivers as avenues of approach and maneuver. The EFV is an armored, fully tracked infantry combat vehicle that will be operated and maintained by a crew of three Marines, and have a troop capacity of 17 Marines with their individual combat equipment. The EFV replaces the Assault Amphibious Vehicle (AAV7A1) that was fielded in 1972 and will be over 30 years old when the EFV is fielded.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

The EFV will provide the Marine Corps with increased operational tempo, survivability and lethality throughout the battle area and across the spectrum of operations. The EFV enables the Navy and Marine Corps team to project power from the sea base in a manner that will exploit intervening sea and land terrain, achieve surprise, avoid enemy strengths and generate never-before-realized operational tempo across war-fighting functions.

PROGRAM STATUS

The EFV program is in the Systems Development and Demonstration (SDD) Phase of the acquisition process. During this phase — which runs from 2001 through 2008 — the program will complete the design of the second generation SDD prototypes, validate manufacturing and production processes, fabricate and test the SDD prototype vehicles, fabricate the live-fire test vehicle and finalize and implement the life cycle management concept. The low-rate initial production decision (Milestone C) is scheduled for September 2005. The program intends to produce 1,013 EFVs, with initial operational capability scheduled for 2008 and full operational capability scheduled for 2018.

The first-generation EFV prototypes completed land and firepower early operational assessments in FY 2002 and are continuing developmental testing. An operational assessment of the command and control suite was also completed in FY 2002. Nine second-generation EFV prototypes (eight EFV(P) (personnel variant) and one EFV(C) (command and control variant)) are in various stages of the build and testing process.

PROCUREMENT PROFILE

Low-rate Initial Production is scheduled to begin during FY 2006.

DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER

General Dynamics Amphibious Systems, Woodbridge, VA